DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 401 040 PS 024 791

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TITLE Connecting with Others: Lessons for Teaching Social and Emotional Competence, Grades K-2 [and] Grades 3-5.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-87822-362-2; ISBN-0-87822-363-0.
PUB DATE 96
NOTE 610p.
AVAILABLE FROM Research Press, 2612 North Mattis Avenue, Champaign, IL 61821; phone: 800-519-2707; fax: 217-352-1221 (Grades K-2: ISBN-0-87822-362-2, $39.95; Grades 3-5: ISBN-0-87822-363-0, $39.95).
PUB TYPE Guides - Classroom Use - Teaching Guides (For Teacher) (052)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Assertiveness; Behavior Modification; Cognitive Restructuring; *Conflict Resolution; Cooperative Learning; Discipline; Empathy; Interpersonal Communication; *Interpersonal Competence; Peer Relationship; Perspective Taking; Primary Education; Problem Solving; *Prosocial Behavior; Self Concept; Self Control; Self Management; Sharing Behavior; Social Adjustment; Social Behavior; Social Cognition; Transactional Analysis
IDENTIFIERS *Behavior Management

ABSTRACT

The Connecting with Others program, initially developed to teach prosocial skills to special-needs students within regular classroom settings, offers an alternative strategy to classroom management and discipline through instruction in self-regulation skills and conflict resolution. The program for elementary grades consists of a K-2 volume and its companion for grades 3-5. The 30 lessons in each volume are based on 3 theoretical approaches: Transactional Analysis, assertion training, and cognitive behavior modification. They are grouped within the following skill areas: (1) concept of self and others; (2) socialization; (3) problem solving and conflict resolution; (4) communication; (5) sharing; and (6) empathy and caring. Each lesson involves active participation and stresses generalization of the skills and concepts taught to the real-world environment. Instructional strategies used throughout the program include storytelling, relaxation techniques, modeling, behavioral rehearsal, creative visualization, and cooperative learning. The lessons may be presented as a separate curriculum, or they may be incorporated in academic subjects such as social studies, language arts, or health education. In each volume, appendix A presents a selected bibliography of children's literature, organized according to the specific skill areas, and appendix B includes newsletters to orient parents to the basic concepts underlying the program, as well as to the specific content of each skill area. Each volume contains about 100 references. (EV)